श्री प्रमोद महाजन : महोदया, मेरा प्रश्न अधूरा रह गया। महोदया, मैं इतना ही पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या निर्मित बिजली पर देते हैं या उपयोगित बिजली पर पर देते हैं? निर्मित पर देते हैं तो टाटा और तारापुर महाराष्ट्र में हैं ....

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : उपसभापति महोदया, सम्मानित सदस्यों की भावना को देखते हुए, उसका आदर करते हुए मैं अपने सम्मानित सहयोगी के साथ महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री और वित्त मंत्री को आमंत्रित करूंगा और उनसे इस बारे में पूरा विचार विमर्श करूंगा।

Setting up of a Biotechnology Information Network

*343. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a biotechnology information network in the country; and

(b) if so, what would be its main functions and objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the Biotechnology Information Network will be to provide a computer based system for storage retrieval and dissemination of information on various aspects which may be helpful in research and development in biotechnology. The functions of the network include the following:

(i) to generate information relevant to specific areas, structure the information into accessible form and make it available to the users;

(ii) to develop software packages specific to user needs; and

(iii) to conduct training courses for manpower development and to promote awareness.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Madam, I would like to know the places where these centres are being set up and what will be the total investment on this project, including foreign exchage. Are we going to receive any technical and financial assistance from foreign countries also?

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: We are going to establish these centres at 8 places and these centres will be established in institutions and colleges and places like that. The names are there. I would not like to read out but give the same to the hon. Members. These centres will provide information to 23 other institutions. The amount involved in establishing these centres is about Rs. 13 crores and we are not going to receive any foreign aid or assistance in this. We are ourselves doing this.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: What are the priority areas in the field of biotechnology which are proposed to be covered by these centres what effect will it have on agriculture, animal husbandry and health, including preventive medicine?

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: Biotechnology is one of the very important technologies the world today. It is going to be helpful to us in agriculculture, in the areas of health, in industry and in many other areas. Initially, we are emphasizing on biotechnology which is relevant to the health. We want to emphasize on the study of biotechnology which will be useful to agriculture but at the same time, we are trying to

study bio-technology which is pertinent to the industry also. Emphasis, however, is going to be on health and agriculture and there would be some study in the field of industry also.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: I would like to know whether there has been any effort to coordination in the field of biotechnology with regard to its future development in space. I would like to know whether some planning is being made and coordination being done for biotechnology engineering.

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: Madam, biotechnology is relevant for the space also, because when the human beings go into the space, what effect the conditions available in the space have on the human body is also studied.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Seminar organised by the Forum of Free Enterprise

*344. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent Seminar organised by the Forum of Free Enterprise and the Indian Merchants' Chamber in Bombay on June 21, 1987 which suggested the abolishing of income-tax;

(b) whether the suggestions made by the Committee on demonetisation, the voluntary disclosure scheme and the seizures and raids would result in the eradication of black money; and

(c) if not, whether the proposal to abolish income tax is considered viable to eradicate black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir. From press reports, the Government have come to know of the Seminar.

(b) It is not understood as to which "Committee" the Hon'ble Members are referring to. From the press reports of the Senimar oganised by the Forum of Free Enterprise and the Indian Merchant's Chamber, it appears that a point made was that the impact of measures like demonetisation, voluntary disclosure schemes, seizures and raids was marginal.

(c) Abolition of income-tax is not considered a viable proposition to eradicate black money.

Ad Hoc Appointments

*345. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court in a recent judgement has decided that the period of ad-hoc appointments in Government, which are followed by regular appointments without break, has to be counted towards seniority and other benefits; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to implement the same as a matter of policy in all the offices including the attached and subordinate offices; and

(c) if so, what are the details of instructions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.